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Houses and Village Layout

342 Round huts (1) are found only in individual instances in a

1. [Ethn., I, pp. 89 f.]

few villages. They are always family or women's houses which [361] are located in the women's village [cf. Fig. 12], and therefore I was never able to examine such a round hut carefully or to photograph it. The round huts seem to be disappearing. They consist chiefly of a conical roof, on whose peak rests a conically shaped coral stone [or a basket upside down or a leaf form]. The walls are low, often carefully put together with boards [more often, however, covered with sago leaves, on the Reef Islands with coconut leaves]; around the foundation of the house is a ring of coral slabs [to keep off the rain water. A low entrance leads [359] into the interior, in the center of which is the same fire-pit with the bamboo implement above it as is in the men's houses (2).]

2. [O'Ferrall, section "Round Houses."] Cf. Coombe, p. 188 with accompanying plate.--[For a conical-roofed hut on the Reef island Matema, see Coombe, plate accompanying p. 199, illustration at upper right.]

[192] According to Thilenius, the rafters are called malawe, the boards of the walls, maliki.

Most of the houses have gables and a rectangular ground plan (3). The men's houses are typical (cf. Fig. 12a) (4). They 342

3. [Ethn., I, pp. 90 ff. Of the illustrations of Nitendi there, Figs. 19-23, only Fig. 19 can be regarded with certainty as a view of this island. Fig. 20 could,